

Message Text

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ORIGIN L-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 PA-01 SAB-02 H-01 SNM-05
DEAE-00 CTME-00 JUSE-00 TRSE-00 PRS-01 /024 R

DRAFTED BY L/ARA:RBFINN
APPROVED BY ARA/PAN:JCHAAHR
L:MFELDMAN (DRAFT)
PA:JSCUKER (DRAFT)
S/AB:AMB. POPPER (DRAFT)
H:RBECKEL (DRAFT)
ARA/PPC:JDIETRICH (DRAFT)
-----116548 211829Z /43
R 211551Z DEC 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 303733

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AINF, PN

SUBJECT: FOI RELEASE REGARDING NARCOTICS TRAFFIC BY
PANAMANIAN

1. ON DECEMBER 16 DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION MADE
AVAILABLE PORTIONS OF RECORDS IN RESPONSE TO EIGHT
SEPARATE FOI REQUESTS FOR ITS RECORDS DEALING WITH ALLEGED
DRUG TRAFFICKING BY PANAMANIAN. DEA CONSULTED WITH
DEPARTMENT AND SEVERAL OTHER AGENCIES PRIOR TO RELEASE OF
THIS MATERIAL.

2. DEA LETTER TO THOSE REQUESTING INFORMATION (INCLUDING
SENATOR DOLE, CBS, LOS ANGELES TIMES AND REPRESENTATIVE
ROBERT DORNAN) STATED THAT: (A) IN ADDITION TO MATERIAL
RELEASED OTHER MATERIAL IS BEING WITHHELD PURSUANT TO
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VARIOUS FOIA EXEMPTIONS; (B) OTHER AGENCIES WILL DECIDE
REGARDING ACCESS TO THEIR DOCUMENTS WHICH HAD BEEN FUR-
NISHED DEA; (C) COURT DOCUMENTS IN CASE OF US V. RICHARD
CAN BE OBTAINED FROM CLERK OF COURT; (D) APPEAL FROM
DEA DECISION MAY BE FILED WITHIN THIRTY DAYS TO DEPART-
MENT OF JUSTICE.

3. DEPARTMENT AIRPOUCHING COPY OF DOCUMENTS RELEASED BY DEA, COVERING LETTER AND LETTER FROM SENATOR DOLE REQUESTING DOCUMENTS.

4. PRESS GUIDANCE BEING USED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO HANDLE ANTICIPATED PRESS QUESTIONS IS IN FORM OF FOLLOWING Q'S AND A'S:

Q. WAS THE STATE DEPARTMENT INVOLVED IN THE PROCESSING OF THE DEA MATERIAL REQUESTED BY SENATOR DOLE AND CBS?

A. WE HELD CONSULTATION WITH DEA AS IS REGULARLY DONE IN CASES OF THIS KIND.

Q. DID YOU GIVE COMMENTS TO DEA ON THIS MATERIAL?

A. YES, WE GAVE COMMENTS TO DEA, WHICH THEY CONSIDERED.

Q. DID YOU RECOMMEND THAT ANY MATERIAL BE WITHHELD?

A. WE DID COMMENT ON THE REASONS WHICH WE THOUGHT WOULD EXEMPT SOME MATERIAL FOR RELEASE UNDER THE FOIA. WE BELIEVE THE APPLICABLE REASONS FOR WITHHOLDING SOME OF THE REQUESTED MATERIAL WERE STATED IN THE LETTERS CONFIDENTIAL

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FROM DEA TO THOSE MAKING THE FOI REQUESTS.

Q. DID ANY OF THE MATERIAL SHOW THAT HIGH PANAMANIAN OFFICIALS WERE INVOLVED IN DRUG TRAFFICKING?

A. WE CANNOT COMMENT ON SPECIFIC ITEMS OR REASONS FOR WITHHOLDING. ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS SHOULD BE ASKED OF THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT.

5. IF QUESTION ASKED SPECIFICALLY REGARDING GENERAL TORRIJOS, WE WOULD SAY WE HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT GENERAL TORRIJOS IS NOT THE SUBJECT OF ANY INVESTIGATION BY ANY AGENCY OF THE US GOVERNMENT.

6. FYI. DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT ALL THE DOCUMENTS IN THEIR ORIGINAL FORM PRIOR TO WITHHOLDING OF ANY PORTIONS MAY BE IN HANDS OF SOME OF THOSE, INCLUDING SENATOR DOLE, WHO MADE FOI REQUESTS. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE303733
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RBFINN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770476-0213
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771230/aaaaazjs.tel
Line Count: 112
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
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Office: ORIGIN L
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 157097
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOI RELEASE REGARDING NARCOTICS TRAFFIC BY PANAMANIAN
TAGS: AINF, PN
To: PANAMA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/322016ff-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009